

## Message Text

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15

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01

H-02 AID-20 IGA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 INSE-00 ( ISO ) W

----- 008617

P 140930Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2573

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MEDAN

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

CINCPACREP GUAM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2040

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SREF, VS SN

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES - SINGAPORE SITREP

REF: SINGAPORE 2013

1. MINDEF HAS ANNOUNCED TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHICH  
HAVE LEFT SINGAPORE AS OF 1700 MAY 13 WAS 7,899.  
STATEMENT SAID "THIS WINDS UP EXERCISE WHICH BEGAN  
ON FRIDAY MAY 2 AND NO FURTHER PRESS STATMENTS. . .  
WILL BE ISSUED. HOWEVER, DRIBLETS OF SMALL CARFT MAY  
TURN UP FROM TIME TO TIME OVER NEXT FEW DAYS." DAO  
INFORMED TWO ADDITIONAL FISHING BOATS CARRYING UNKNOWN  
NUMBER OF REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED SINCE THIS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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2. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO SAID GOS HAD "APPROVED REQUEST OF

110 REFUGEES TO STAY IN SINGAPORE WATERS TO FISH. THEY ARE NOW STAYING AT ST. JOHN'S ISLAND." SUPPLIES OF FUEL FOR THEIR BOATS WILL BE ADVANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SINGAPORE FOOD INDUSTRIES HAS AGREED TO BUY THEIR CATCH PENDING MORE PERMANENT BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS. A SPECIAL GOS "COMMENT" WAS ALSO RELEASED MAY 13 CRITICIZING P.M. WHITLAM WHO WAS REPORTED ON RADIO AUSTRALIA BROADCAST TO HAVE CRITICIZED ASIAN COUNTRIES IN GENERAL AND SINGAPORE IN PARTICULAR FOR FAILURE TO TAKE MORE REFUGEES. THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCAST SAID AUSTRALIA WOULD TAKE A FAIR SHARE OF REFUGEES UNDER PROGRAM BEING ORGANIZED BY UNHCR.

3. GOS OFFICIAL "COMMENT" SAID THAT IN DEALING WITH SUDDEN INFLUX OF NEARLY 8,000 REFUGEES INTO SINGAPORE, QUICK DECISIONS HAD TO BE MADE BECAUSE OF THE TYPHOON SEASON WHICH WOULD BEGIN IN THE PACIFIC IN TWO WEEK'S TIME-- THE TIME REQUIRED FOR JOURNEY FROM SINGAPORE TO GUAM (WITH A QUICK TRANSIT AT SUBIC) -- THE ONLY CENTRE ORGANIZED TO RECEIVE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES. THEREFORE IT WAS NOT HELPFUL TO LEARN THAT "IT WOULD BE SOME WEEKS BEFORE THE NUMBER AUSTRALIA WOULD ACCEPT COULD BE KNOWN." THE OFFICIAL COMMENT ALLEGED THAT NEARLY ALL REFUGEES HAD EXPRESSED A WISH TO GO TO THE U.S.A., FRANCE OR AUSTRALIA, AND NOT STAY IN SINGAPORE. "SURPRISINGLY, 110 REFUGEES OF HUMBLE ORIGIN DECIDED TO STAY IN SINGAPORE AND THEY ARE RECEIVED BY THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT." (COMMENT: BELIEVE GOS DECISION TO KEEP 110 REFUGEES RELATED TO WHITLAM - LEE IMBROGLIO AT JAMAICA COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE OVER AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION POLICY.)

4. MINDEF STATEMENT ALSO REPORTED THAT GOS HAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR REP KADRY WHO "VISITED SEVERAL REFUGEE SHIPS" ON MAY 13 AND "HELD USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE REFUGEES." KADRY CALLED DCM AT 2030 MAY 13 TO REPORT THAT HE HAD VISITED TWO BOATS AND TAKEN DETAILS OF REFUGEES. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED CASE OF ONE REFUGEE, COL. VO DONG HAN WHO HAD WIFE (PHAM THI LAN) AND SEVEN CHILDREN NOW SOMEWHERE IN CALIFORNIA WHO HAD LEFT SAIGON APRIL 25 BY AIR. REGRETTABLY, BOATS VISITED BY KADRY  
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HAD ALREADY DEPARTED SINGAPORE PRIOR TO KADRY'S CALL. EMBASSY WAS THEREFORE UNABLE TO FOLLOW UP.

5. ICEM REP. STEWART HAS REPORTED THAT ENTIRE GROUP OF 97 ORPHANS AND ORPHANAGE STAFF LEFT SINGAPORE MAY 14 VIA SWISS AIR FOR U.S.A. (SEE SEPTTEL.)

6. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS ADVISED THAT MINDEF PERMITTED

FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIAL TO BOARD AT LEAST ONE OF THE  
REFUGEE SHIPS. THIS OFFICIAL WAS ABLE TO LOCATE ON ONE  
SHIP 56 PERSONS WHO WERE EITHER FRENCH NATIONALS OR HAD  
CLOSE RELATIVES IN FRANCE. THESE 56 HAVE ALREADY LEFT  
BY COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT TO FRANCE. AS FAR AS EMBASSY  
HAS BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, THIS IS ONLY EMBASSY OFFICIAL  
WHO WAS ALLOWED TO BOARD SHIPS. CRONK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750169-0094  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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